REMARKS

This communication is responsive to the Official Action mailed on August 4, 2004, rejecting all the claims pending in the application, namely claims 1-8. Of the pending claims, claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8 are independent claims. Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and claim 6 depends from claim 5.

The Examiner asserts that U.S. Patent No. 6,085,982 to Nakashima (hereinafter "*Nakashima*") discloses all the limitations of claim 1. In particular, the Examiner asserts that *Nakashima* discloses:

> "a circuit [function-power-source switching control section, 5] operable to control each said function block selected by the host system to consume power at an operating rate and to control each said function block not selected by the host system to consume power at a standby rate less than said operating rate [column 5, lines 25-44]."

(Official Action, pg. 2) The Examiner further asserts that:

> "The Applicant's specification discloses reducing the power consumption of a function block when such block is not selected in order to reduce the power consumption of an electronic device to a minimum necessary value [paragraph 0052]. Consequently, the claim limitation "to control each said function block not selected by the host system to consume power at a standby rate less than said operating rate" is interpreted to mean that the power consumption of a function block not selected by the host system is to be reduced to a minimum necessary amount."

(*Id.*)

The Examiner then concludes that although "Nakashima teaches that non-selected function blocks are not required to

consume power and further teaches disconnecting power to non-selected function blocks to reduce power consumption of a PC Card to a minimum necessary amount," *Nakashima* nonetheless "discloses the limitation 'to control each said function block not selected by the host system to consume power at a standby rate less than said operating rate.'" (Emphasis added). (*Id.*, pg. 3.)

The Examiner repeats this argument in rejecting all the other independent claims of the application.

Applicant respectfully transverses the Examiner's rejection. Applicant agrees with the Examiner that *Nakashima* teaches that function blocks that are not selected are "not required to consume power" and "further teaches disconnecting power to non-selected function blocks." (*Id.*) Indeed, *Nakashima* is replete with references that a function block only consumes power when the function is required to be used. (*Nakashima*, col. 2, lns. 9-19; col. 3, lns. 12-20; col. 4, lns. 18-27; col. 5, lns. 50-54; and col. 6, lns. 17-23.) As such, *Nakashima* clearly teaches that if a function is not selected, no power is applied to the corresponding function block and therefore no power is consumed by the function block. Put another way, *Nakashima* clearly teaches that only functions that are selected consume power.

Indeed, it is not clear to the applicant how the Examiner reaches the conclusion that *Nakashima* discloses the subject limitation of claim 1 as originally filed. In particular, the Examiner points to paragraph [0052] of the specification in interpreting the claim limitation "to control each said function block not selected by the host system to consume power at a standby rate less than said operating rate" to mean that "power consumption of a function block not selected. . . is reduced to a minimum necessary amount." (Official Action, pg. 3). Applicant respectfully submits that

the Examiner's does not need to resort to the specification to interpret the subject claim limitation. After all, the ordinary and relevant meaning of the word "consume" is to expend or use up. (THE AMERICAN HERITAGE DICTIONARY, SECOND EDITION). Clearly, a circuit that is operable to expend power is not identical to a circuit operable to not expend or use up any power. Furthermore, even the Examiner's interpretation that "power consumption. . . is reduced to a minimum necessary amount" requires that power be consumed or used. On the other hand, *Nakashima* clearly discloses that non-selected functions do not consume any power. Indeed, the Examiner admits that *Nakashima* teaches that non-selected functions are disconnected. In this regard, applicant is unaware how a non-selected disconnected function of *Nakashima* consumes power. Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that *Nakashima* does not support the rejection.

Although applicant respectfully believes that all the claims as originally filed are neither obviated nor anticipated by *Nakashima*, applicant has nonetheless amended claims 1, 3, 4 and 5 to make it clearer that *Nakashima* teaches opposite to these claims. In this regard, claims 1 and 3 have been amended to now recite "a circuit operable . . . to control each said function block not selected by the host system to consume at least some power at a standby rate less than said operating rate." (Emphasis added) Thus, claims 1 and 3 recite that function blocks not selected "consume at least some power," whereas *Nakashima* teaches that function blocks not selected consume no power. Claim 4 has been amended to recite "a circuit. . . to control each said function block whose function code is not stored in said function register to consume power at a standby rate greater than zero and less than said operating rate". Claim 5 has been amended to recite "a circuit. . . to control each said function block whose function code is not

stored in said register to consume power at a non-zero rate less than said operating rate when said power save value is stored in said register." In this regard, *Nakashima* teaches that non-selected functions are disconnected and not consume any power. In addition, applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to claim 1, 3, 4 and 5 are merely meant to clarify the subject limitation and do not change the scope of these claims.

With regard to claims 7 and 8, applicant respectfully submits that these claims are clearly not anticipated by *Nakashima* as originally filed. Specifically, claims 7 and 8 recite "supplying electric power from the host system to each of the plurality of function blocks at a standby rate of consumption". Clearly, *Nakashima* teaches not supplying any power to non-selected functions because such functions are, as admitted by the Examiner, disconnected. In addition, claims 7 and 8 further recite "controlling power consumption of the plurality of function blocks so that each function block not selected by the host system consumes power at the standby rate of consumption." As such, applicant respectfully submits that these claims are neither anticipated nor obviated by *Nakashima*.

For at least the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully submits that *Nakashima* not only does not anticipate any of the claims presently pending in the application, but that it teaches away from the claimed invention. In particular, *Nakashima* explicitly teaches that only selected function blocks consume power. This is diametrically opposite to the claimed invention. As such, *Nakashima* neither anticipates nor obviates any of the claims presently pending in the application.

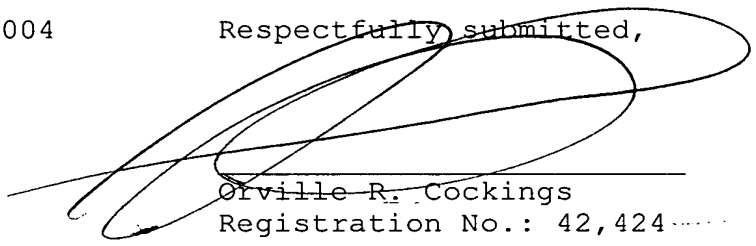
As claims 2 and 6 depend from independent claims 1 and 5, applicant further respectfully submits that these claims are not anticipated or obviated for at least the foregoing reasons.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: October 7, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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